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[NCEA 30 Day Outlook 1-17 - 2018.docx](#)

**National Center for Environmental Assessment  
Weekly Report for January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Notables listed below and 30-day Outlook attached.

**HOT TOPICS**

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**Uranium IRIS Assessment Plan Release.** On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the IRIS Program will release the IRIS Assessment Plan for Uranium for a 30-day public comment period. A Federal Register Notice will open the public comment period on Docket ID: EPA-HQ-ORD-2017-0474. The IRIS Assessment Plan communicates information on the scoping needs identified by EPA programs and regional offices and the IRIS Programs' initial problem formulation activities.

**Chloroform IRIS Systematic Review Protocol Release.** On January 23<sup>rd</sup>, the IRIS Program will release the Systematic Review Protocol for the Chloroform Integrated Risk Information System Assessment for a 30-day public comment periods. A Federal Register Notice will open the public comment period on Docket ID: EPA-HQ-ORD-2017-0497. The protocol describes the systematic review procedures and other methodology planned for use in developing the chloroform assessment.

**PUBLIC ACTIVITIES**

**Meeting with Exxon.** On January 18th, Kris Thayer met with Jeffrey Lewis of ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences to discuss operationalizing systematic review and potential future collaborations.

**Training for Health Canada.** On January 18, Linda Phillips presented a webinar entitled “General Concepts in Exposure Assessment”. This is part of a series of webinars for Health Canada using the Risk Assessment Training and Experience (RATE) materials developed by NCEA. She also plans to present the RATE module on “Obtaining and Using Exposure Factors Data” and conduct a session on Exposure Assessment Tools at a later date.

**Training for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.** On January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, Allen Davis and Jeff Gift will be providing two four-hour webinar training sessions to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) on dose-response methods, including benchmark dose (BMD) and categorical regression (CatReg) modeling. NJDEP reached out to NCEA to inquire about training opportunities and after consultation with NJDEP, NCEA agreed to provide training on the application of BMDS and CatReg for risk assessment purposes.

## **WITHIN EPA**

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**Briefing for Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds on Corals & Climate Adaptation Planning research.** On January 18<sup>th</sup>, Jordan West participated along with representatives from NHEERL on a briefing for Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW) on ORD’s coral reef-related research. Topics included NCEA’s leadership role on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, and work on adaptation planning frameworks and the Adaptation Design Tool, which has been developed using coral reefs as a pilot system and Task Force members as expert advisors.

## **PRODUCTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

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**Development of a Systematic Review Inventory.** Jen Nichols led the development of a Systematic Review (SR) Inventory for the cross-agency SR Community of Practice as one of key tasks outlined in the Community charter. This document is intended to aid in identifying resources and critical gaps for SR efforts. The inventory lists and presents details on the relevant assessment and guidance documents for SR, tools, protocol databases, literature databases, and other SR communities/institutions. The inventory is a living document and will be updated as necessary to reflect current tools/approaches used by the SR Community of Practice.

**Procedures for Delineating and Characterizing Watersheds for Stream and River Monitoring Programs.**

A new technical guide on delineating and characterizing watersheds will soon be posted online. David Gibbs (ORISE Fellow) developed a suite of Python tools for ArcGIS to help watershed monitoring organizations measure a suite of properties useful for selecting watersheds for monitoring or as covariates in analyses of watershed health, including land use composition, base flow, and channel sinuosity. The guide, by David and Britta Bierwagen, explains how to use the tools.

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